(c) if so, what were main reasons Railways have decided to explore other international funding agencies as well;

(d) whether any concrete efforts from other international sources have also been considered; and

(e) if so, by what time final decision in this project is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. It has been agreed between the Govt. of India and Japan in the Joint Statement of the two Prime Ministers signed on 29.04.2005 that the feasibility of a dedicated high axle load freight corridor project for Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah sectors of Indian Railways utilizing the Japanese STEP (Special Terms of Economic Partnership) YEN loan shall be examined. A proposal for carrying out a development study for the dedicated freight corridor project has since been posed to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on 07.07.2005.

(b) There is no offer of Loan so far. However, normally under the STEP Yen loan scheme, 30% of the loan would be tied to procurement from Japan. The loan covers up to 85% of the total project cost with an interest rate of 0.4% and repayment period of 40 years including 10 years grace period.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise. Feasibility study of the Project is in hand at present.

Passenger Reservation Systems

1945. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the East Coast Railway (ECoR) proposes to open more Passenger Reservation Systems (PRS) to help the commuters of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the existing number of reservation facilities, so far, commissioned by the ECoR; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to improve other passenger amenities at various stations on this rail system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) At present 46 Computerised Reservation Centres are functional in the East Coast Railway and 7 more centres namely Jagatsingpur, Keonjhargarh, Kalahandi, Sonapur, Naupada, Malkangiri and Dantewada have been sanctioned in the year 2005-06.

(d) Many passenger amenity works have been sanctioned for various stations on this rail system in the year 2005-06 which include provision of additional platform shelters, separate reservation complex, computer based announcement system, extension of platforms, new station building, improving circulating area of stations, train enquiry systems, provision of Pay and Use Toilets, Foot Over Bridges, expansion of Computerised Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS), installation of Led (Light Emitting Diode) based coach guidance system on platforms etc.

Reservation in trains for M.Ps

†1946. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been made compulsory for a person sent for getting reservation to have a letter from the Member of Parliament in case a Member of Parliament wants to get his reservation in Mumbai;

(b) if not, why the reservation officer at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal and Church Gate and in Mumbai Central demand for the above letter all the time in spite of giving I.C. number of the Member of Parliament; and

(c) if so, whether the Member of Parliament has been intimated about this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Whenever the requisition form is tendered by a person for reservation of a Member of Parliament alongwith identity card-cum-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.